

REPORT 1

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The Berlin Incandescent Lamp Factory (RFT Berliner Glühlampenwerk VEB) (BGW), Berlin O-17, Warschauerplatz 9-10, is on the grounds and in the buildings of the former Osram KG, Werk D. In 1945, the buildings were partly burned and the equipment removed by the Red Army. A small group of former Osram workers, foremen, and employees repaired what was left of the damaged machinery and began small scale production of tungsten wire and light bulbs. The Light Technical Bureau Moscow, Berlin Branch, was founded at the same time and in 1948 became a peoples-owned undertaking under the name of Berliner Glühlampenwerk VEB.

2. At the time of the founding of BOW the production program consisted of the following: tungstic acid produced from tungsten ore, tungsten powder, tungsten rods (as an intermediate product for electrical contacts), tungsten wire in all dimensions with varying capacities brought about by subsequent treatment, tungsten carbides and mixed carbides used in the production of hard metals, various types of hard metals for application in shaping tools, (both cutting and non-cutting, "spannabhebenden" and "spanlosen"), drawing dies, small rollers and tools of hard metal and light bulbs, particularly general purpose bulbs. During the following years the program was vastly expanded; for instance in 1951 4.3 tons of tungsten products were produced. It was planned that this production should reach 16 tons for 1953. Until 1950, government offices, particularly the Ministry for Machine-Construction, gave assistance, including financial investment, so that the machine inventory could be largely increased and modernized. Additional aid was given from research funds for the construction of new machines and instruments.

3. In 1950 and 1951, the research budget for the entire BGW was around 200,000 IM East. These research funds, which were distributed in varying proportions to the individual departments, were applied to both basic and applied research and all research and development projects undertaken within the framework of so-called "research requirements". In 1952, the funds were cut considerably and in 1953 amounted to 130,000 IM East. At the same time the BGW was advised to stop basic research completely and to conduct only applied research. About the middle of 1952, Dr. Neumann, former chief of the physics laboratory, was appointed chief 25. construction engineer and administrator of all research requirements by the State Planning Commission and the Ministry for Machine Construction, Main Administration Electrotechnology, Department Vacuum Technology. Research requirements at that

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4. The departments were assigned research requirements as follows:

a. The physics laboratory, a development laboratory directed by Dr. Schmidt, consisted of smaller subdepartments, for example, the one under Dipl. Ing. Jutzner. These subdivisions, each with several assistants, worked on problems of gas discharge physics, development of gas discharge lamps, and construction of high and low pressure, gas-discharge lamps.

b. The electrotechnical laboratory under Ing. Heidensohn was charged with the supervision of the production of gas discharge lamps, fluorescent lamps, glow igniters (Glimmschalter) and other similar products. This laboratory corrected any faults in production. For this purpose Ing. Knoch, Ing. Hartig, and a number of assistants were available. It is believed this laboratory worked in close cooperation with the physics laboratory.

c. The fluorescent materials laboratory was founded in 1950 as a research and development laboratory although the production of such material was to take place at the fluorescent material factory in Bad Liebenstein. The laboratory was therefore a link between consumer and producer with the task of developing fluorescent materials required by consumers. Techniques were developed in the laboratory and then referred to the Bad Liebenstein factory. Until July 1952, the laboratory was under the general direction of Dr. Max Wolf, former director of Auer Gesellschaft, and Prof. Dr. Hans Witzmann, now a university professor in Greifswald. Since July 1952, Witzmann has been the appointed director. Dr. Wolf left his position immediately after the arrest of the then director of BfW, Heugebauer, on charges of industrial espionage and as an enemy of the people. He was condemned, in the summer of 1952, to 16 years hard labor. Since that time the fluorescent materials laboratory has continuously lost importance, although it was originally built and furnished on a large scale, perhaps due to internal politics. The laboratory employed about thirty chemical engineers, chemists, technicians, and assistants who worked with modern equipment. Prof. Dr. Witzmann became professor of physical chemistry at Greifswald University in January 1953 and personally supervised the laboratory only two days a week.

d. The department for metal research, formerly under Dr. Karl Eschera, and now under then Ing. Lesinski, consisted of two laboratories, a chemical and a metallurgy-physics laboratory. Lesinski, a former German man, was about 60 years of age and a very good production man. He moved from West Berlin to East Berlin in about 1951 for fear of losing his East Berlin house. He spoke Polish fluently, was a member of the SED and spent some time in East German concentration camps after the war. His department was developed from the former material testing department. All difficulties arising in production were considered in this laboratory. The department also was assigned the task of developing a new method for tungsten wire and other special wires. Another assignment was the development of a combined material (Verbundwerkstoff) from metals and silicate (silicates) by a powder metallurgical process, originating with the German Water Economy, but to be withdrawn on 23 February 1953 because of lack of funds and the departure of Dr. Eschera. Dipl. Ing. Bauer also worked on this development. The developmental requirement on tungsten wire and special wires was being continued in a limited way by the chief of the wire shop. "Hero of work" medals and experiments were limited to production requirements.

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The production of tungsten wire of 0.10 mm. diameter was experimentally achieved. This wire was said to be needed for the production of very small radio tubes, presumably for use in hearing aids. These tubes were to be produced at the Volkswerk Erfurt. Research on the production of rhenium wire for tubes of particularly high efficiency ended following Dr. Pachern's departure from GDR. Recently the loss of tungsten wire has increased greatly because of new methods introduced by Chief Foreman Mueller at the instigation of the SED. The loss is now about sixty per cent as compared to a loss of thirty per cent previously (normal loss was 20-25%). In addition, the general quality of wire decreased considerably so that production of double spiral lamps became impossible. Occasionally, when a sufficient amount of appropriate tungsten wire was available a few double spiral lamps (150 W, 220 V) could be produced.

e. The Shop laboratory, until 31 December 1952, was directed by Dr. Luben. This laboratory was assigned no research requirements and was concerned with the most technical production of special materials such as jetiles, steels, and numerous analytical solutions. It also performed analytical examinations of tool steels and alloys.

f. The department for hard metals, up to June 1952, was directed by Ob. Ing. Fehse. This was a department for the production and development of hard metal used for drawing dies and tools. In 1952, a production technique for a new type of hard metal resulted. It was called H-5. For this development, four members of the department received the title "Meritorious Inventor of the People". Following the departure of Ob. Ing. Fehse, who was considered one of the old masters and originators of hard metals, no results of any importance were anticipated. The budget for this requirement was about 20,000 DM East in 1953 as compared to 40,000 DM East in 1952.

g. The department for infrared technology consisted of a small group under the direction of Dr. Junitz. In this laboratory, infrared thermal radiators developed at BOW were tested and used experimentally. This department also developed drying installations for various industrial purposes.

5. Since the beginning of 1953, the BOW had suffered from lack of funds. Investments which were originally planned at 2,500,000 DM East were cut to 200,000 DM East. Because of this, many small items which would have been important for or critical processes could not be acquired. With the revision of the so-called "Eichengraben plan", many employees and workers were dismissed, particularly those who lived in West Berlin. In some cases these persons were arrested in the factories and later released. As a result, others remained away from work. Director Meier was responsible for increased political pressure. The arrest of former director Reugabauer was reportedly the work of Felix Eliashewitz, SED party secretary and member of SED.

6. Additional details of development requirements at BOW were as follows:

a. In 1951, a development requirement to produce rhenium wire and alloys for extrusion (for the purpose of making fountain pen tips) was given to BOW. The intention was to make East Germany independent of Degussa in Western Germany, which imported Iridium for this purpose. Although funds allotted for this project were 80,000 DM East, the requirement was not filled.

b. Also in 1951, a development requirement was given to BOW to produce molybdenum wire for transmitter tubes through a drawing process. This requirement came from Herr Wittbrodt in ZAST who believed that rhenium wire would have superior drawing qualities. This requirement was also not filled.

c. In 1952 and 1953, a development requirement was given to BOW for the improvement of the quality of tungsten wire and the production of special wires (H-11, H-12). For this project, 40,000 DM East were allotted.

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6. Since early 1957, almost all development requirements were secret. ZAPF, the specialist for all rhemium questions was a Dr. [REDACTED], about 55 years old, who had close connections with Minister Selhausen. ZAPF insisted that rhemium should be handled with the greatest care because of great Soviet interest in it.

7. The following installations and individuals worked closely with ZAPF: Dr. Kaiser from Letstest, on all nickel questions; Dr. Heintze, a SED member from [REDACTED] Erfurt; Herr Grosse from CSZ; Dr. Lager and Dr. Rottung from the Magnetic Institute in Jena; Dipl. Ing. Schroeder from Eisenhuettenwerk, Thale; Dipl. Ing. Liedtke from Zentrallabor Fernstudien (ZSL ZST) and Dr. Froehlich from the same installation; and Prof. Eisenkorn from [REDACTED] Technische Hochschule.

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[REDACTED] Comments:

1. Now at Materials Testing Office, West Berlin.
2. Ing. (Fou) Otto is the present director.

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